

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (0) 2, WEALDSTONE (0) 1

One-time Wealdstone favourite Bernie Bremer won Tuesday night's points back from his former colleagues with an injury-time goal that, for the first time in the match, did justice to everyone.

Employing the most audacious offside trap used in amateur football, Wealdstone were quickly receiving the bird from a sizeable crowd of Loakes Park fanatics.

And things threatened to get worse as referee Don Finnerty who had handled Saturday's match against Ilford at Lower Mead, lost control of a game dogged by foul play.

As football, this game hardly rated for long spells at a time. Two players, Keith Blunt of Wycombe and Robb Williams of Wealdstone, went into the book — both for fouls that had been relatively tame compared to some dished up.

HELPED

Wealdstone obviously aimed for a point from a Wanderers side racing ahead unbeaten at the Isthmian League summit. Indeed, the efficiency of their trap went a long way to helping them achieve their objective.

Wanderers, 6-1 sizzlers at Lower Mead earlier in the season, were caught time and again while running back from one attack only to be offside before they could return to their own lines.

The frustration could be felt everywhere, and an incredible miss by Keith Searle as early as the fourth minute stuck in Wycombe memories as Wealdstone played out time.

A cross from Geoff Anthony, with Wealdstone awaiting the offside whistle, was met by Searle, who, unchallenged, shot straight over the crossbar from six yards.

BOOKED

Eight minutes later John Ritchie forced Wycombe's deputy goalkeeper Kevin O'Brien into a fine twisting save for a corner. But, give or take the visitors negative tactics, it was nearly all Wycombe.

John Hutchinson — completing the ex-Wealdstone trio — evaded the trap only to see Micky Barnard kick his drive off the line, and a mighty roar went up soon after as Wycombe caught Ritchie in their own defensive net.

The home fans were quick to see the amusing side of the incident. But with Searle stabbing the ball weakly wide of goal in the 30th minute, they lost all sense of humour when Blunt was booked after an incident with John Wilson four minutes from half-time.

Wealdstone returned in the second half to unprintable taunts. Wycombe manager Brian Lee took off Anthony for Tony Horseman in the 62nd minute and immediately the new man started conniving with international star Larry Pritchard on ways of breaking through.

Williams went into Mr. Finnerty's book for a foul on Bremer and goalkeeper Alan Thomas, whose first-half handling had been suspect, improved many times over and cut out a bulldozing shot from Fuschillo after 69 minutes.

Anything seemed likely except what happened — Geoff Booth backheading the ball into Wycombe's goal after a long range free kick.

Tempers on the stunned terraces frayed once and for all but unfortunately for Wealdstone, Wycombe on the field kept their heads like the champions they seem destined to be.

Their reply came five minutes later when it was no longer a question of whether or not the Wealdstone trap could be beaten — it suddenly vanished of its own accord.

SUPERB

Wycombe's equaliser also came via a free kick, Bremer sending the ball floating in from the left and into a ruck of players in front of goal, where John Delaney pushed it home.

A superb piece of build-up on the right wing lined them up for a final effort two minutes into injury time.

The ball went to Pritchard, who transferred it to Bremer for the midfielder man to lash in a first-time volley and cause the loudest eruption since Krakatoa.

Wycombe Wanderers: K. O'Brien; P. Fuschillo, K. Blunt; E. Powell, J. Delaney, V. Faulkner; G. Anthony, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, B. Bremer, J. Hutchinson. Sub. T. Horseman.
Wealdstone: A. Thomas; T. Mahon, M. Barnard; R. Williams, J. Shufflebotham, G. Olsen; D. Bullock, G. Booth, J. Ritchie, C. Townsend, J. Wilson. Sub. L. Worley.